

VMM-263 Commanding Officer's Sexual Assault Policy



Sexual assault is a crime that is not restricted to any gender, race, or age, and is fundamentally inconsistent with our core values of honor, courage, and commitment. Acts of sexual assault destroy our confidence in one another and degrade unit readiness and overall combat effectiveness.

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. "Consent" does not mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance, and is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion, or when the victim is sleeping, incapacitated, or unconscious.

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Failure to report or ignoring sexual assault incidents will have damaging consequences for victims, the squadron, and the Marine Corps. Where cause exists, appropriate legal and/or administrative action shall be taken against violators. Leaders at all levels shall take immediate action to become familiar with MCO 1752.5A and shall pay close attention to Appendix D, the *Commanders Protocol for Responding to Allegations of Sexual Assaults*.

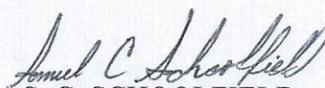
Alcohol use is frequently cited in sexual assault incidents. Irresponsible consumption of alcohol can place a Marine at increased risk. It is imperative that Marines take care of each other and not allow a fellow Marine to be victimized due to intoxication.

VMM-263 has two Marines in the billet of Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA) to assist the victims of sexual assault with seeking help. Point of contact information for these UVAs will be displayed prominently in the squadron spaces and will be located at the duty desk at the squadron's barracks.

If you are a victim of sexual assault, you are not to blame. If assaulted, contact the squadron Uniformed Victim Advocates (UVA), a healthcare provider, a chaplain, or the MCAS New River Sexual Assault Hotline at 910-238-6384 as soon as possible. More information, resources, and points of contact are available via the 2D MAW Sexual Assault Prevention and Response website <http://www.2ndmaw.marines.mil/Resources/SAPR.aspx>. The site can also be accessed via the VMM-263 command website.

Victims of sexual assault will be treated with sensitivity, decency, and respect. They will receive all available medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. Victim safety, privacy, and treatment are my primary concerns. Information relating to a case will only be released to those professionals who have a need to know. Leaders shall ensure that those who elect to make a restricted report have their information safeguarded and must ensure the personal safety of every victim whether making a restricted or unrestricted report.

Thunder Eagles, take care of yourselves and those around you and do not permit sexual assault to occur within our ranks.


S. C. SCHOOLFIELD
Commanding Officer